



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 71, December 2012**



DNA Update

by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)



Bruce Edgar in California has sent his swabs to the lab and we're waiting for the results. Of course, we'll keep you posted when we find out who he's related to.

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## **The Importance of a Paper Trail**

**Mrs. Poirot** (my **Jodie**) has an interesting challenge. Let me explain... For years she has been searching for any of her father's family, about whom she knows very little. His name was **Robert Bruce Evans** (sounds very Scottish, doesn't it?), and he always said he was born in 1910 in Toronto. If that was correct, she thought there would be a record of him on the 1911 Canada Census. She waited patiently for the Census to come out—in fact, the Ontario Genealogical Society went through a very long process of urging Statistics Canada to open the records and give them to Archives Canada. Stats Canada finally (and reluctantly) agreed to release the data.

No mention of **Robert Bruce Evans** on the 1911 Census! There was a family living in Toronto who seemed like they might fit, with some children born in New Brunswick, some in Québec, of Scottish descent. The thing was, **Jodie's** father had left home (he said) when he was 13, and he hardly remembered them at all. His parents died when he was young and he lived with an older sister until he ran away. We wonder if that older sister was really his mother, and her parents—the grandparents—raised him until they passed away. That would make sense, given the ages of the people in that family on the 1911 Census.

Now, what was she to do? Wait until the 1921 Canada Census, which seemed like such a long way off? Well, she only has one more year to wait.

In the meantime, she asked her brother to test his DNA. Maybe there was somebody out there with the **Evans** name who was also looking. Maybe there was somebody out there who didn't have the **Evans** name, and was also looking. The possibilities are endless. Her brother agreed to the test, and we arranged for Family Tree DNA to send him the 67-marker kit—**Jodie** wanted as many hits as she could get. The results came while we were vacationing in Ontario last September, and there were no matches to anyone named **Evans**! That was disheartening, but understandable. If the person he thought was a sister really was his mother, and she had the child out of wedlock, the father's name is unknown.

Now, here comes the interesting part... There was one match on the Family Tree DNA database, a man who lived in the USA, and he matched on 64 out of 67 markers! His father was born out of wedlock, and the father's name wasn't known. His grandmother was from a town on Ontario, Canada; she went to the US to have the child, gave it up for adoption, then went back to Ontario. The interesting thing is that the father's name was given on the adoption papers. Now, there was no obligation to give the father's name, but it is there, so we have to accept that it's correct.

So, **Jodie's** brother and this fellow in the US are related—the DNA tells us that. But how? That's the pertinent question... How? Well, you need a paper trail—documentation that shows how. It could be a notation in a family Bible, or somebody may have pieced together a pedigree of sorts; maybe even somebody had a computer program and created a tree that way.

However it happens, that's what is needed to have a paper trail of any value. You need names, dates, and places. With information going back a couple of generations, a researcher can piece together a

tree going back several generations in the UK, the USA, Australia, or Canada. There are birth, marriage, and death records (BMDs) on-line in all of those countries; some are better than others! Most countries protect the living by only releasing records, for example, of births over 100 years ago, and marriages over 80 years ago, with more records added regularly. The US Census records online are now up to the 1940 collection, recently released.

Back to the story of **Jodie's** Dad. Family Tree DNA offers a test called Family Finder, which is an autosomal test, examining over 700,000 markers from all of one's chromosomes, not just the Y-chromosome (see [www.isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal\\_DNA](http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA)). So, **Jodie** ordered the test, using the same swabs as previously used for the Y-DNA test. She advised the person in the US of this, and he ordered the same test for himself. We were thinking that, if the match was close, we could find a common ancestor, or the path leading to such an ancestor, and possibly living relatives for both families.

It took about a month, and we now have the results—**Jodie** (and her brother) isn't as closely related to the fellow in the US as we first thought. The autosomal test accurately establishes relationships up to five generations back (using 25 years per male generation). In the words from the FTDNA site, "The Family Finder's relationship range is a high confidence determination of the possible relationships between two people." The bottom line is, we don't know how close the relationship is, but we held out hope that it might be close, i.e. within the five generation limit—but, it isn't!

So, we're no further ahead than we were before, except that we found a relative in the US who shares some common ancestor with **Jodie**, just not close. We await the 1921 Canada Census.

One could place this story alongside the many DNA tests we **Edgars** have done, where we find that two **Edgars** have the same Y-DNA type, and the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) sometimes shows a very close relationship, but we can't find the common ancestor. Let's use two clear examples—**Jim Edgar** in Glasgow, and **Colin Edgar** in Belfast. Their MRCA shows one generation to a common ancestor, which means, taken at face value, that they have the same grandfather! We have their trees, and they don't have the same grandfather. At least not the one of record. Was there an illegitimate birth in one of the families? Possibly, but then one has to somehow account for them both having the **Edgar** name.

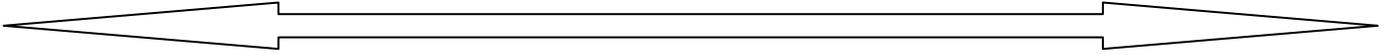
| R1b The Celts            |   |     |
|--------------------------|---|-----|
| James Edgar (R1b)(Gla... | - | R1b |
| Colin Edgar (R1b)(Bel... | 1 | R1b |

Look to the right at the number of I2b1s we have showing a close relationship. We do know how **Jim** in Georgia, **Jackie** in Texas, and **James** in Missouri are related. Recall their story from Edgar Events #61 last February. As for the others, we know they're related, but we don't know how. That's the all-important question—"How?"

Without having records of some kind—the paper trail—we don't know how they're related. Except to say that the DNA doesn't lie; they are definitely all cousins, and the relationship probably goes back much farther than six or ten generations.

| I2b1 The Saxons          |    |      |
|--------------------------|----|------|
| Jim Edgar (I2b1)(GA)     | -  | I2b1 |
| Jack Edgar (I2b1)(Dal... | 1  | I2b1 |
| Brad Edgar (I2b1)(Lit... | 6  | I2b1 |
| Jason Edgar (I2b1)(No... | 6  | I2b1 |
| James Edgar (I2b1)(Ni... | 6  | I2b1 |
| Jim Edgar (I2b1)(Kyle... | 6  | I2b1 |
| Wayne Edgar (I2b1)(Fe... | 6  | I2b1 |
| Mike Edgar (I2b1)(Mon... | 6  | I2b1 |
| John Edgar (I2b1)(BC)    | 6  | I2b1 |
| Leslie Edgar (I2b1)(M... | 6  | I2b1 |
| Ian Edgar (I2b1)(Belf... | 6  | I2b1 |
| John V. Edgar (I2b1)(... | 6  | I2b1 |
| John Murray Edgar (I2... | 6  | I2b1 |
| John Edgar (I2b1)(Ill... | 8  | I2b1 |
| John D. Edgar (I2b1)(... | 10 | I2b1 |
| David W. Edgar (I2b1)... | 10 | I2b1 |
| Roland Edgar (I2b1)(C... | 10 | I2b1 |
| Robin Edgar (I2b1)(Mo... | 10 | I2b1 |
| Philip Edgar (I2b1)(M... | 10 | I2b1 |
| Alfred Edgar (I2b1)(A... | 10 | I2b1 |
| Colin Edgar (I2b1)(Cr... | 10 | I2b1 |
| Corey Edgar (I2b1)(To... | 10 | I2b1 |

Now, about those paper trails... If you don't have one, but would like to, **Mrs. Poirot** would be happy to help (not to do it for you, but show you how, and where to look for records). If you have a tree and would like to share it with us (not for publication), please send it to my address above. Having your tree means you could then do the further research needed to find connections, and possibly find that elusive MRCA.



Speaking of **Mrs. Poirot**—she's a whiz at doing this research, which is how she got the nickname!

She was looking at the British Columbia Archives, which has a very complete free on-line BMD database, for **Edgars** whose deaths were registered in B.C. She found a **John Robert Edgar**, born in Saskatchewan in 1915, flew with the RCAF, who died in WWII in 1943 in India, and who is listed with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). The site shows his parents as **Dale Edwin Edgar** and **Lula Josephine (Stewart) Edgar**.

([www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2807271/EDGAR,%20JOHN%20ROBERT](http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2807271/EDGAR,%20JOHN%20ROBERT))

**Dale E. Edgar** died in 1937 in Vancouver, B.C. In the US Census, **Jodie** found a **Dale E. Edgar** born in 1887 in Ohio, son of **John** and **Della Edgar**. This family leads to **Samuel Edgar** (b. 1789) and **Mary Parkes** of Newry, Ireland, who settled in Michigan/Ohio.

We have an **Edgar** in our DNA group who belongs to this same family, **Donald Eugene Edgar** of Mason, Michigan! This is also the same family of **SteveUK**, **Jack** and **Jim Ruffer**, **Sharon Whitney**, and numerous others.

Who knew they had a cousin for whom a mountain is named east of Chilliwack Lake in British Columbia? See [www.aircrewremembrancesociety.com/raf1943/4/edgarjohn.html](http://www.aircrewremembrancesociety.com/raf1943/4/edgarjohn.html)

In Memory of  
Flight Lieutenant Pilot  
**John Robert Edgar**

J/8141, 211 (R.A.F.) Sqdn, Royal Canadian Air Force who died on 27 December 1943 Age 28  
Son of Dale Edwin Edgar, and of Lula Josephine Edgar, of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Remembered with Honour  
Ranchi War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

If you have some time available, go onto the Internet and do some reading. Here's a good link:  
[www.genealogyintime.com/genealogy-news.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/genealogy-news.html)

And another: [irish-genealogy-news.blogspot.ca/](http://irish-genealogy-news.blogspot.ca/)

There are more...

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/latest-genealogy-news.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/latest-genealogy-news.html)

<http://genealogyblog.geneanet.org/>

<http://news.genealogytoday.com/>

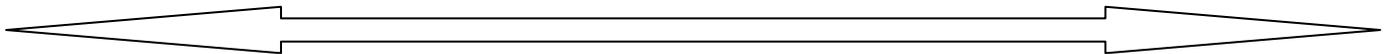
And there are message boards galore—most will keep you up-to-date with any changes:  
<http://boards.ancestry.com>

[www.myheritage.com/page/genealogy-message-boards](http://www.myheritage.com/page/genealogy-message-boards)

[www.genealogy.com/newmsg.html](http://www.genealogy.com/newmsg.html)

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/>

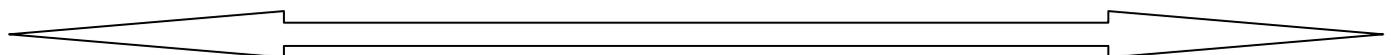
[www.progenealogists.com/messageboards.htm](http://www.progenealogists.com/messageboards.htm)



**Marian Morgan** picked this up on-line from a very old newspaper, the 1820 February 9 Bury and Norwich Post—it resonates with my astronomy hobby. Thanks, **Marian!**



Venus may now be seen in the South-west every fine evening; the duration above the horizon of this beautiful planet after Sun-set is increasing; Jupiter may be seen a short distance above her in the South-western sky; they are approaching each other. Saturn is also visible in the South; and Mars is farther on the right of the Ecliptic towards the East. Thus are the four brightest planets of our system seen together soon after Sun-set.



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

